

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /104 W
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R 270831Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO DA WASHDC/DACS/DAEN-ZA/DAEN-FEZ/DAEN-FEP/DALO

CNO WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7974

AMCONSUL OPORTO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

CDR DARCOM ALEXANDRIA VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 5026

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MASS, TECH, PO

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ELECTRICITY GENERATORS FOR PORTUGAL

REF: (A) LISBON 4567 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL) (DTG 081003Z
JUL 76); (B) DA MSG DAEN-FEP DTG 141449Z APRIL
1976 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PORTUGAL FACES EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ELECTRICITY
SUPPLY SITUATION. EMBASSY SEEKS TO ASSIST PORTUGUESE
IN OBTAINING SUPPLEMENTARY GENERATORS. HEREIN ARE
POSED TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE USE OF
U.S. ARMY BARGE OR OTHER GENERATING EQUIPMENT.
EMBASSY ALSO URGES FULL INVESTIGATION OF ADDITIONAL
POSSIBLE PORTABLE POWER GENERATING EQUIPMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTELS REPORTED PORTUGAL'S DIFFICULT ELECTRICAL
SUPPLY SITUATION. PROBLEM IS LIKELY TO BECOME
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ACUTE IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BECAUSE:

-- EVEN IF RAINS BEGIN IN OCTOBER AS EVERYONE HOPES, RESERVOIRS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY REPLENISHED TO PERMIT THEIR UNRESTRICTED USE. IN ADDITION, GIVEN JUSTIFIABLE PORTUGUESE FEARS THAT 1976-77 RAINFALL WILL BE BELOW NORMAL FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, GOP WILL LIKELY SEEK TO CONSERVE WATER SUPPLIES THROUGH REDUCED HYDROELECTRIC OUTPUT; -- CONTRACT WITH EDF OF FRANCE PROVIDING 150 MW POWER SUPPLY WILL EXPIRE AT END OF SEPTEMBER. CHANCES FOR RENEWAL REPORTEDLY ARE POOR; AND -- EQUIPMENT AT THERMAL POWER PLANTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO INCREASING BREAKDOWNS DUE TO HEAVY USE AND REDUCED MAINTENANCE.

2. IN EFFORT TO ASSIST PORTUGUESE, MAAG AND DAO INVESTIGATED POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SUPPLEMENTARY GENERATING EQUIPMENT ON TEMPORARY BASIS. MAAG WAS INFORMED THAT U.S. ARMY HAS SOME POWER GENERATOR BARGES AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF SMALLER LAND-BASED PLANTS. ARMY (SEE REFTTEL B) CONFIRMED AVAILABILITY ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 1, 1976, OF BARGE ANDREW J. WEBER, CURRENTLY STATIONED IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE. WEBER REPORTEDLY HAS COMBINED DIESEL/GAS TURBINE GENERATING CAPACITY OF 21.6 MW, WITH OUTPUT AT 13.8 KV, 60 HZ.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED AVAILABILITY OF BARGE JULY 22 WITH ELECTRICIDADE DE PORTUGAL (EDP) OFFICIAL GODINHO. GODINHO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR U.S. INITIATIVE AND WAS EAGER TO OBTAIN BARGE (AND/OR OTHER POWER SOURCES) IF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED. IN FACT, COMPANHIA PORTUGUESE DE ELEC-TRICIDADE (CPE)--NOW EDP--HAD MADE EFFORT IN APRIL TO OBTAIN TEMPORARY GENERATORS. GODINHO SAID THAT CPE HAD IMPRESSION NO U.S. EQUIPMENT WAS AVAILABLE, BUT HAD HEARD THAT SOVIET UNION POSSESSED PORTABLE GENERATORS IN NORTHERN SIBERIA. CPE REPRESENTATIVES TALKED WITH SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND PRESENTED WRITTEN REQUEST IN MID-APRIL, BUT SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED. GODINHO SAID THAT IF TECHNICAL
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PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED, U.S. INITIATIVE WOULD PROVIDE STRONG CONTRAST WITH SOVIET FAILURE TO RESPOND.

4. PORTUGUESE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IS 220V/50 HZ, WITH 11 KV TRANSMISSION NET. EDP OFFICIALS POSED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONCERNING AVAILABLE U.S. ARMY EQUIPMENT, REQUIRING ANSWER FROM U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (DAEN-FEP):

-- IS IT POSSIBLE TO REDUCE GENERATOR SPEED TO
PROVIDE 50 HZ? WHAT WOULD BE RESULTANT POWER OUTPUT,
I.E. EXTENT OF POWER LOSS? WHAT PROVISION WOULD
HAVE TO BE MADE FOR AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT, E.G.
REPLACE PUMPS?
--IF OUTPUT OF GENERATOR IS REDUCED TO OBTAIN
50 HZ, COULD VOLTAGE OUTPUT BE SET AT 11 KV IN
ORDER TO CONNECT WITH PORTUGUESE TRANSMISSION NET,
WITHOUT NECESSITY FOR SUBSTATION?
-- IF SUBSTATION IS NECESSARY, COULD IT BE SET
FOR 11 KV OUTPUT? WHAT ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF
SUBSTATION?
-- IF GENERATOR SPEED CAN BE MODIFIED TO OBTAIN
50 HZ, COULD ONE OF ARMY'S LAND-BASED GENERATORS
(ABOUT 150 KW CAPACITY) BE USED TO POWER AUXILIARY
EQUIPMENT ON BARGE?
-- WHAT ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF LAND-BASED
GENERATORS--NUMBER AVAILABLE, MEANS OF TRANSPORT,

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R 270831Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO DA WASHDC/DACS/DAEN-ZA/DAEN-FEZ/DAEN-FEP/DALO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 5026

CYCLES, POWER CAPACITY, VOLTAGE OUTPUT, POWER
SOURCE (DIESEL, GAS, ETC.)?

-- WHAT TYPE OF FUEL CAN BE USED FOR GAS TURBINE
GENERATOR ON BARGE (FUEL OIL, GAS, ETC.)?

5. EMBASSY URGES FULL INVESTIGATION OF OTHER
POSSIBLE POWER SOURCES, INCLUDING MOTHBALLED OR
ACTIVE DUTY U.S. NAVY VESSELS, E. G. REPAIR SHIP ON
EXTENDED PORT VISIT. USDAO LISBON MSG DTG 021630Z
JULY 76 (NOTAL) REQUESTED INFORMATION ON FEASIBILITY
OF USING MOTHBALLED SHIPS. CNO MSG DTG 092247Z
JULY 76 POINTED OUT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED.
MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS EVOKE SAME QUESTIONS AS IN
PARA 4 ABOVE.

6. EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT RESOLUTION OF
TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND POSITIVE RESPONSE WOULD
PROVIDE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO STRENGTHENING
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BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PRODUCE PUBLIC RELATIONS
BENEFITS--ESPECIALLY IN COMPARISON WITH LACK OF
SOVIET RESPONSE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES
RESPOND TO QUESTIONS RAISED ABOVE. WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY COMMENTS FROM INFO ADDRESSES ON OTHER POSSIBLE
SOURCES OF POWER GENERATORS.
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